

Submitter: Maureen Niland Stokes

On Behalf
Of: Witco

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human
Services

Measure: HB5026

I am asking that you please support HB 5026 which would allow us to increase the wages we pay to our staff who provide services to individuals with the most significant disabilities. The services they provide allow individuals with disabilities to live and work in their communities. Our direct care staff who would benefit from this funding has provided front line services throughout the pandemic, ensuring that people we service received quality services. They have been committed to their health and safety. Additionally, those workers who support individuals working in community employment did so throughout the pandemic, These services are critical to ensure people with disabilities who want to work are able to do so. Inflation hits our staff very hard, and unlike other business we are unable to pass these increases onto a customer, we are totally dependant on the legislature.

We are deeply appreciative of the support you have provided in the past, we are urging you to continue to support this request and allow us to provide our employees with a living wage.

Many thanks

Maureen Niland Stokes